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January 30, 2006

via Express Mail  
(EL 996371597 US)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Name:	Joycelyn Giles Fenty
Signature:	<i>Joycelyn Giles Fenty</i>

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/635,366  
Title: STYLET-FREE EPIDURAL CATHETER  
AND THREAD ASSIST DEVICE  
Inventors: Vitullo, et al.  
Our File: 3600/268

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the following documents in connection with the above-identified application:

1. an Amendment in Response to the November 8, 2005 Office Action; and
2. a return receipt postcard.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with this submission. If any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dkt. No. 3600/268

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/635,366  
Applicants : Vitullo, et al.  
Filed : August 6, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3763  
Examiner : Cris Loiren Rodriguez  
Customer No. : 1912

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Date of Deposit: January 30, 2006

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VA 22313-1450.

Name: Joycelyn Giles Fenty

Signature: Joycelyn Giles Fenty

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 8, 2005 OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action issued on November 8, 2005 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action is due February 8, 2006. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.